

REMARKS

The April 16, 2001, Patent Office Action contains a requirement for an election of species between the six separate species A-F enumerated on page 2 of the Patent Office Action.

Furthermore, an indication was given that claims 8 and 15 are generic and that claims 9 and 16 read on a valve with the step formed on the valve housing which is not supported by the disclosure and would be subject to a 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection.

In response to this indication, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 16 so that the valve is formed on the valve member.

In response to the restriction requirements, Applicants provisionally elect for prosecution species E of Figure 6 in the event that no generic claims are allowed. Currently claims 8-9 and 15-16 read on the elected species of Figure 6.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests a full and thorough examination on the merits of this application containing claims 8-21.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in

fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323
(Docket #225/48700).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 9 and 16 as follows:

9. (Amended) The valve according to Claim 8, wherein the step and the guide surface are arranged on [at least one of] the valve member [and the valve housing].

16. (Amended) The arrangement according to claim 15, wherein the step and the guide surface are arranged on [at least one of] the valve member [and the valve housing].